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"Stalin" Steam Electric Power Plant Operates at Full Capacity

Rabotnichesko Delo, Sofia, 22 Jul 1951

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-- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 22 Jul 51

The second stage of the construction of the "Stalin" Steam Electric Power Plant has been completed.

Like a huge fiery heart the plant beats with doubled capacity and sends electric power to factories and plants.

Answering the appeal of Party and government for industrializing and electrifying Bulgaria, the Bulgarian workers began the construction of many projects in all parts of the country with great enthusiasm. One of the projects was the huge construction of the "Stalin" Steam Electric Power Plant.

In the midst of barren expanse of marsh and mud in which one could see only a couple of steel telephone poles there quickly arose the beautiful and majestic "Stalin" Steam Electric Power Plant. The onlooker is impressed and filled with admiration by the huge dimensions of buildings, furnaces, water towers, complex installations of transformers and other electrical equipment.

The builders and assemblers of the plant speak of it with love and admiration. One can hear them say, "the 'Stalin' Plant is our own."

The warm July sun seems to have directed its burning rays straight at the high water-cooling tower in order to light up the slogan written on it in large white letters: "The 'Stalin' Plant is the creation of Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship."

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Inspired by this fruitful friendship, the builders of the "Sovbolstroy" (Soviet-Bulgarian Construction) Enterprise and the assemblers of the "Tsentsmontazh" (Plant Assembly) Enterprise started enlarging the plant at the end of last year. The enlargement provided the possibility of completely utilizing the capacity of the boilers and of increasing the electric power production capacity of the plant to 100,000,000 kilowatt hours per year.

Due to the delay in the delivery of some equipment and a delay in construction work, the assembly of machinery began a month later than planned. But in spite of these delays, the steam turbine was given a trial run on 29 May of this year, four days before the set date, and on 22 June the new electric generator was put into operation for the first time and was charged with power.

The large building, the cooling circle and the electric installation were enlarged. A new water tower, as large as the one already there, was erected. The water to cool the steam is brought here through huge pipes by means of a high-capacity pump which pumps 70 cubic meters of water per minute. The enormous machines are mounted in a huge power house. The two turbines for high and low voltage are the largest ever put into operation in Bulgaria. The axis of one turbine alone weighs 13 tons. Large and complex transformers change the electric power from 6,000 to 35,000 volts. All this complex mechanism is operated from a beautifully decorated control room in which there are a large number of meters, instruments and multi-color signal lamps.

The "Stalin" Plant became a mighty source of electric power, and with its inclusion in the general electrification system of

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Bulgaria, a large new step in socialist construction was made. About 35 plants can receive sufficient electric power from this steam electric power plant. The available steam and the hot water are sent to enterprises and plants by means of an extensive network of pipes.

For producing electric power and steam the plant uses the lowest grade coal, helping to save about 100,000 tons of high-grade Pernik black coal per year for use in industrial enterprises. The heat capacity of the plant replaces about 100 plant boilers.

In the hands of the working people electric power is an enormous factor for the victory of the new social order. If one should compare the capacity of the plant with human power it would amount to an army of 215,000 persons giving daily support to the young Bulgarian industry. Many inhabitants of the capital and thousands of young men (brigadiers) contributed their voluntary labor to the construction of this large enterprise.

The young Bulgarian builders, technicians, assemblers and engineers were learning from the knowledge and the experience of Soviet specialists. It was during the first stage of the construction of this plant that many Bulgarian workers gained the experience and knowledge which they are now successfully applying to the construction of the "Republika" Steam Electric Power Plant, the "Maritsa" Steam Electric Power Plant, etc.

Bulgaria also received assistance for the construction of the "Stalin" Plant from the other brotherly people's democracies. With the assistance of Bulgarian workers, technicians and engineers,

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Hungarian specialists successfully completed the work of mounting the equipment during the second stage of the enlargement of the plant. On the high 10-meter condenser, surrounded by wooden scaffolds, Hungarian and Bulgarian assemblers and welders are perched. The Hungarian shock-worker, comrade Kalman, or the "cat", as he is called by his Bulgarian comrades, because of his dexterity and efficiency in equipment mounting, is exceedingly happy that he is working in brotherly Bulgaria.

"We have completed the mounting of the second turbine and will soon be returning to Hungary to receive new tasks," he said. "But I am forever bound to the "Stalin" Plant because I have worked here and have taken part in its construction."

The large machines and equipment were lifted and shifted with 50-ton locomotive cranes, but according to the Hungarian assembler, comrade Kovach, it is not the force of the cranes but the force of the mutual friendship with his Bulgarian comrades that has helped to overcome the hardships and the obstacles. One of the best specialists of the "Gants" Hungarian Works, Engineer Andre Ryuenyak, says: "I and my Bulgarian colleagues were able to solve a number of special problems in the realization of speedy and high quality mounting. We helped and taught each other."

The secretary of the Hungarian Party organization at the "Stalin" Plant, comrade Chasar Andor, specialist in cable mounting, speaks with the assurance of having nobly fulfilled a duty to his country and to the Bulgarian people and says: "We have a pledge to the Party that we would successfully fulfill our tasks in Bulgaria."

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There were often difficulties in our common effort, but together with the Bulgarian Party organization we were able to overcome them. Often, we had to work extra, without rest, and at night, but the pledge we gave to comrade Matiash Rakoshi and that given by our Bulgarian comrades to comrade Vulko Chervenkov, has been honorably fulfilled by all of us."

Comrade Kovach likes his work and the men, all of whom work well.

Thanks should be expressed to the comrades from the "Vaptsarov" Brigade and from the "Mikhail Laytner" Brigade and to the shock-workers (Atanas Vasilev, N. Kalman, Iv. Nikolov, Markush, Petus Peychev, Laytner, Metodi Kraeshtki, Ishtvan, Gerdzhikov) and many other Bulgarian and Hungarian assemblers, welders and engineers who have distinguished themselves. With their help the mounting was successfully completed and a brotherly friendship was created between the workers of the two countries.

The friendship with the Soviet Union is marvelous and fruitful. Under its wing the working people from the people's democracies help each other, marching confidently and as friends towards the happy future. Kalman and Nikolov raise their fists together and give a warning to instigators of new wars who want to destroy the achievements of the peaceful and creative labor of liberated people.

The Bulgarian people will guard the beloved "Stalin" Plant and will safeguard the Bulgarian-Soviet friendship as the apple of their eye.

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